UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.109/L.1840
6 February 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

ORGANIZATION OF WORK: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note by the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The attention of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is drawn to the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, listed in sections II and III below, which are relevant to the work of the Special Committee in 1996.

II. GENERAL RESOLUTIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

2. The Special Committee was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

3. By its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations.

4. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 1/ has adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Committee.

5. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation of the Special Committee, adopted resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

6. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, by which it declared the period 1990-2000 the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, adopted as a Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1). The Plan, inter alia, contained the following provisions:

> "22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

"(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;

"(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

"(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

"23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

"24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies."

8. At its fiftieth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 2/ the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/39 of 6 December 1995 in which it, inter alia:

"5. Approves the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1995, including the programme of work envisaged for 1996; 3/

"...

"11. Requests the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

"(a) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

"(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

"(c) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

"(d) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

"12. Calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants;

"13. Also calls upon the administering Powers that have not participated in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1996 session".

9. By a letter dated 20 July 1995 addressed to the Chairman of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2037), the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations informed the Chairman of the decision of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria to withdraw from the membership in the Special Committee as from 1 August 1995. On 18 August 1995, the Acting Chairman transmitted the above-mentioned letter to the President of the General Assembly for appropriate action.

10. As at 1 January 1996, the Special Committee was composed of the following 23 members: Afghanistan, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. The membership in 1995 of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee is given in the annex to the present document.

III. RESOLUTIONS, CONSENSUSES AND DECISIONS CONCERNING SPECIFIC ITEMS CONSIDERED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN 1995

11. As mentioned in section II above, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/39 on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Assembly also adopted eight other resolutions, one consensus and three decisions relating to specific items considered by the Committee in 1995 which are listed below. Members will wish to take them into account in drawing up the Committee's programme of work for 1996.

A. Resolutions, consensuses and decisions concerning specific Territories

1. Resolutions

Territory	Resolution number	Date of adoption
Western Sahara	50/36	6 December 1995
New Caledonia [2]	50/37	6 December 1995
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	50/38 A and B	6 December 1995

2. Consensuses

Territory	Decision number	Date of adoption
Gibraltar	50/415	6 December 1995

3. Decisions

Territory	Decision number	Date of adoption
East Timor	50/402	22 September 1995
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	50/406	31 October 1995

B. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	Resolution number	Date of adoption
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	50/32	6 December 1995
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination	50/33	6 December 1995

Title	Resolution number	Date of adoption
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	50/34	6 December 1995
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	50/35	6 December 1995
Dissemination of information on decolonization	50/40	6 December 1995

C. Decision concerning other questions

Title	Decision number	Date of adoption
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	50/412	6 December 1995

IV. OTHER RESOLUTIONS RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

12. Other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session that are relevant to the work of the Special Committee are listed below:

Title	Resolution number and date of adoption
Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations	50/6 24 October 1995
Multilingualism	50/11 2 November 1995
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System	50/14 15 November 1995
Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States	50/16 20 November 1995
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference	50/17 20 November 1995

Title	Resolution number and date of adoption
Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic	50/18 27 November 1995
Law of the sea	50/23 5 December 1995
Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas; unauthorized fishing in zones of national jurisdiction and its impact on the living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas; and fisheries by-catch and discards and their impact on the sustainable use of the world's living marine resources	50/25 5 December 1995
Questions relating to information	50/31 A and B 6 December 1995
Fourth World Conference on Women	50/42 8 December 1995
Review of the role of the Trusteeship Council	50/55 11 December 1995
Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s	50/103 20 December 1995
Women in development	50/104 20 December 1995
Developing human resources for development	50/105 20 December 1995
United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation	50/108 20 December 1995
Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme	50/110 20 December 1995
Convention on Biological Diversity	50/111 20 December 1995
Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind	50/115 20 December 1995
Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	50/116 20 December 1995

Title	Resolution number and date of adoption
International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction	50/117 A and B 20 December 1995
Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development	50/124 20 December 1995
Water supply and sanitation	50/126 20 December 1995
Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	50/136 21 December 1995
Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	50/137 21 December 1995
Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination	50/139 21 December 1995
International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking	50/148 21 December 1995
United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations	50/156 21 December 1995
Programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People	50/157 21 December 1995
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity	50/158 21 December 1995
Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development	50/161 22 December 1995
Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas	50/165 22 December 1995
International Covenants on Human Rights	50/171 22 December 1995
Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes	50/172 22 December 1995

Title	Resolution number and date of adoption
Strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity	50/174 22 December 1995
Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities	50/180 22 December 1995
Right to development	50/184 22 December 1995
Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization	50/185 22 December 1995
Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action	50/201 22 December 1995
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action	50/203 22 December 1995
Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995	50/205 A and B 23 December 1995
Pattern of conferences	50/206 A to F 23 December 1995
Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997	50/214 23 December 1995
Programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997	50/215 A to C 23 December 1995
Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997	50/216 23 December 1995

Notes

1/ See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fiftieth sessions. For the most recent, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/47/23); ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/48/23); ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/49/23); and ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/50/23).

2/ A/50/23 (Parts I-VII); to be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/50/23).

3/ A/50/23 (Part I), chap. I, sect. J; to be issued in Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/50/23).

Annex

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN 1995

Working Group

Committee officers:

Grenada (Chairman)
Cuba (Vice-Chairman)
Sierra Leone (Vice-Chairman)
Syrian Arab Republic (Rapporteur)

Officers of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance:

Papua New Guinea (Chairman)
Chile (Rapporteur)

Other members:

Congo
Fiji
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Trinidad and Tobago

Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance
(24 members)

Afghanistan
Bulgaria
Chile
China
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Ethiopia
Fiji
Grenada
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Mali
Papua New Guinea (Chairman)
Russian Federation
Sierra Leone
Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania
Venezuela
Yugoslavia

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Chairman

1. Subsidiary bodies

1. Having regard to the expected workload of the Special Committee for the current session and in the light of past experience, it is suggested that the Special Committee maintain the Working Group as a steering committee, as well as the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, subject to any modification in its membership that it might deem appropriate.

2. Allocation of items and procedure for consideration

2. Annexed to the present note is a list of matters pending for consideration by the Special Committee during the year, together with an indication of the procedure that the Committee may wish to adopt. An indication is also given of the suggested allocation with regard to each item.

3. It is understood in that connection that, in their examination of the items allocated for their respective consideration, the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies should take into account the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session that are relevant to the work of the Committee, as listed in the note by the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/L.1840). It is also understood that they should continue to be guided by the relevant provisions of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration (resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990), as well as the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 on the basis of proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Decade (A/46/634/Rev.1)

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3. Order of priority for consideration of items

4. The Chairman will hold consultations with regard to the order of priority to be given for consideration of items in plenary meetings.

5. It is also his intention to hold consultations on specific activities envisaged under the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

6. In the meantime, subject to the availability of the working papers prepared by the Secretariat, it is suggested that the Subcommittee should conduct its substantive work in accordance with the schedule of meetings as approved by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session (A/50/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 54).

4. Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

7. In accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 of 29 November 1979, and in the light of past experience, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the procedure adopted at its 1982 session, 1/ in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-first session.

5. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

8. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly decided to waive rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly in order to permit meetings to be declared open and debates to proceed without the presence of the quorum required under those rules. The Assembly also decided that morning meetings should begin at 10 a.m.

9. As those measures have further enhanced the effective utilization of conference-servicing resources, it is suggested that the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies continue to follow the same procedure. It should be understood that, in accordance with the rules cited, the presence of a majority of members would continue to be required for any decisions to be taken.

10. In the same context, the Subcommittee is requested, as far as possible, to schedule meetings only when a sufficient number of speakers will ensure full utilization of the time allotted and also to minimize the wastage in conference resources resulting from the cancellation of scheduled meetings. The Subcommittee is requested to continue the practice of holding extensive consultations and informal meetings whenever possible, with a view to reducing the number of formal meetings to a minimum.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/37/23/Rev.1), chap. I, paras. 60-69.

Annex

MATTERS PENDING FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE DURING 1996

Question	Allocation	Procedure for consideration
East Timor	Plenary	As separate item
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	"	"
Gibraltar	"	"
New Caledonia	"	"
Western Sahara	"	"
Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico (A/50/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 43)	"	As appropriate
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions (General Assembly resolution 50/32)	"	As separate item
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination (General Assembly resolution 50/33)	Plenary	"
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (General Assembly decision 50/412)	"	"
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 50/34)	"	"
American Samoa	Subcommittee	To be decided by Subcommittee

Question	Allocation	Procedure for consideration
Anguilla	Subcommittee	To be decided by Subcommittee
Bermuda	"	"
British Virgin Islands	"	"
Cayman Islands	"	"
Guam	"	"
Montserrat	"	"
Pitcairn	"	"
St. Helena	"	"
Tokelau	"	"
Turks and Caicos Islands	"	"
United States Virgin Islands	"	"
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (General Assembly resolution 46/181 and report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1, annex))	Plenary/ Working Group	As appropriate
Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters	Working Group	"
Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable	"	"
Pattern of conferences (General Assembly resolution 50/206)	"	"
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (para. 12 of General Assembly resolution 50/39)	Plenary/ Subcommittee	"
Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 50/40)	"	"
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories	"	"

Question	Allocation	Procedure for consideration
Matters relating to the small Territories (para. 11 (c) of General Assembly resolution 50/39)	Plenary/ Subcommittee	To be taken into consideration in the examination of specific Territories
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (art. 15 of the Convention)	"	"
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 50/35)	Subcommittee	"
Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization (para. 11 (b) of General Assembly resolution 50/39)	"	"